

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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C1  
1. (Currently Amended) An image processing method for carrying out image processing on an image including a figure, the image processing method comprising the steps of:

extracting a face area of the figure from the image; and

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adjusting at least one of: density and/or color of the face area based on density information of an area surrounding the face area so as to compensate for an effect of density of the area surrounding the face area on visual perception of the density of the face area; and/or color of the face area based on color information, respectively, of anthe area surrounding the face area so as to compensate for an effect of color of the area surrounding the face area on visual perception of the color of the face area.

2. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus for carrying out image processing on an image including a figure, the image processing apparatus comprising:

face area extracting means for extracting a face area of the figure from the image; and

adjusting means for adjusting at least one of: density and/or color of the face area, based on density information of an area surrounding the face area so as to compensate for an effect of density of the area surrounding the face area on visual perception

of the density of the face area; and/or color of the face area based on color information, respectively, of anthe area surrounding the face area so as to compensate for an effect of color of the area surrounding the face area on visual perception of the color of the face area.

3. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program to cause a computer to execute a method of carrying out image processing on an image including a figure, the program comprising the procedures of:

31 extracting a face area of the figure from the image; and  
adjusting at least one of: density and/or color of the face area based on density information of an area surrounding the face area so as to compensate for an effect of density of the area surrounding the face area on visual perception of the density of the face area; and/or color of the face area based on color information, respectively, of anthe area surrounding the face area so as to compensate for an effect of color of the area surrounding the face area on visual perception of the color of the face area.

4. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus for carrying out image processing on an image including a figure, the image processing apparatus comprising:

a face area extractor extracting a face area of the figure from the image; and

an adjustor adjusting at least one of: density and/or color of the face area, based on density information of an area surrounding the face area so as to compensate for an effect of density of the area surrounding the face area on visual perception of the density of the face area; and/or color of the face area based on color information, respectively, of anthe area surrounding the face area so as to compensate for an effect of color of the area surrounding the face area on visual perception of the color of the face area.

5. (Previously Added) The image processing method of claim 1, further comprising:

designating an area surrounding the face area as a concentric area excluding the face area.

6. (Previously Added) The image processing method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining the area surrounding the face area such that the area surrounding the face area has a radius of 3 times a radius of the face area.

7. (Previously Added) The image processing method of claim 1, further comprising:

dividing the surrounding area into sub areas; and  
calculating an average pixel density of each sub area.

8. (Previously Added) The image processing method of claim 1, further comprising:

calculating density and/or color information of the area surrounding the face.

9. (Currently Amended) An image processing method for carrying out image processing on an image including a figure, the image processing method comprising the steps of:

extracting a flesh area of the figure from the image; and  
adjusting at least one of: density and/or color of the flesh area based on density information of an area surrounding the flesh area so as to compensate for an effect of density of the area surrounding the flesh area on visual perception of the density of the flesh area; and/or color of the flesh area based on color information, respectively, of an the area surrounding the flesh area so as to compensate for an effect of color of the area surrounding the flesh area on visual perception of the color of the flesh area.